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The handwriting on the wall . . .

Among violent graffiti found painted in red and black paint on the walls of the apartment rented by sniper Mark Essex at 2619½ Dryades St. were the words "revolutionary justice." Clothing and shoes were found strewn around the rooms occupied by the 23-year-old gunman before the Downtown Howard Johnson Motor Hotel incident. (States-Item photos by Mike Bates.)

Wall-to-Wall . . .

Sniper Lived with Hate

The man who didn't mix often walked the 108 feet down a narrow alley that led to his two-room apartment where he sat and hated whites and policemen.

He never talked and he never bothered anybody, his neighbors said.

So nobody ever knew that Mark Essex hated so much that he spray-painted a litany of hatred on his walls, hatred that finally exploded into tragedy.

"Political power comes from the barrel of a gun."

"My destiny lies in the bloody death of all racist pigs."

"Kill white devil and kill white pig."

His neighbors didn't know that Mark Essex wanted "revolutionary justice," but the walls of his apartment know what went on in Essex's 23-year-old mind. "Revolutionary justice is black justice," a scrawl in black on his living room wall read.

LAST SUNDAY, Essex let the world know what he thought "black justice" was. He climbed atop the Downtown Howard Johnson Motor Hotel, turned into a mad sniper and wantonly shot six people to death, including three police officers, with his .44 Magnum rifle.

At 2619½ Dryades St. this morning, Essex's landlord, Romes Hayes, opened the flat where Essex lived "for the last time." As he did, Mrs. Bertha Morgan, who rented the apartment to Essex for Hayes, viewed the inside for the first time since police uncovered it yesterday.

"Good night!" said Mrs. Morgan. "That guy was kooky."

"Kooky" may not be the right description, but something bothered Mark Essex.

HIS FILTHY, two-room home — a freshly painted blue when he rented it on Nov. 5—had turned into red and black graffiti that captured his hatred —slogans painted in red related to killings and whites, while slogans in black related to blacks and revolution.

"The quest for freedom is death—then by death I shall escape to free-

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—States-Item photo by Mike Bates.

PAINT-STAINED walls of the apartment rented by slain sniper Mark Essex at 2619½ Dryades St. are examined by landlord ROMES HAYES. The graffiti-filled rooms were uncovered by police yesterday in a search for clues leading to the Howard Johnson shootings. The 23-year-old gunman was to be buried today in Emporia, Kan.

He Lived with Hate

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dom," a slogan read. "Hate white people, beast of the earth."

No one will ever know for sure what motivated Essex to do what he did. He was buried this morning in his hometown of Emporia, Kan.

Mrs. Morgan, who lives at 2617 Dryades, said that she never saw anybody else enter the aprtment, which rented for $40 a month.

HAYES SAID Essex "didn't mix with anybody," and he didn't know him at all. "He gave me a little trouble about paying rent," he said, "but not much."

"Shoot a devil like you shoot a dog pig" and "Dare to struggle, dare to win" were other scrawlings that marred his walls.

Men's clothing and shoes were strewn over the floors of both rooms, wet with water from a leaky waterbed.

A copy of the Wichita Eagle, a Black Muslim newspaper, and the magazine "Essence" littered the floor.

ALSO IN THE apartment were several quart bottles of orange juice, each with a small amount of liquid remaining in them, and clouded by black spray paint on the outside. It appeared Essex drank the juice as he was spraying his walls with slogans.

A bottle of cheap wine lay on the floor.

A television and two electric fans appeared to the the only items of value and Mrs. Morgan said that Essex's family had called and inquired about his belongings.

Reprts were that police had gathered pertinent evidence from within the apartment before newsmen were allowed to enter.

OTHER SLOGANS said "Kill pig Nixon and all his running dogs." On a pink and orange sheet tacked over a window was painted "Black justice, shoot to kill."

Police have linked Essex with the death of black New Orleans Police Cadet Alfred Harrell on New Year's Eve. A bullet from Essex's rifle, police say, killed Harrell.

A neighbor, Matthew Corley, who lives in the same building as Essex did, said he saw Essex only once. He said Essex was quiet and never bothered him.

Among those killed by Essex were Deputy Police Supt. Louis J. Sirgo and Patrolmen Philip J. Coleman Sr. and Paul A. Persigo.